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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/581,804	06/16/2000	KEON-HOON YOO	A33291PCTU	4337

21003 7590 01/07/2003

BAKER & BOTTS  
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NEW YORK, NY 10112

EXAMINER

LEE, RIP A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1713

14

DATE MAILED: 01/07/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Advisory Action**

Application No.

09/581,804

Applicant(s)

YOO ET AL.

Examiner

Rip A. Lee

Art Unit

1713

**--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

THE REPLY FILED 23 December 2002 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

**PERIOD FOR REPLY** [check either a) or b)]

- a) ☒ The period for reply expires 3 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.  
 b) ☐ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection. ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1. ☐ A Notice of Appeal was filed on \_\_\_\_\_. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.  
 2. ☒ The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:  
 (a) ☒ they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);  
 (b) ☐ they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);  
 (c) ☐ they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or  
 (d) ☐ they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: \_\_\_\_\_.

3. ☐ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): \_\_\_\_\_.  
 4. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).  
 5. ☐ The a) ☐ affidavit, b) ☐ exhibit, or c) ☐ request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: \_\_\_\_\_.  
 6. ☐ The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.  
 7. ☒ For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) ☒ will not be entered or b) ☐ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: \_\_\_\_\_.

Claim(s) objected to: \_\_\_\_\_.

Claim(s) rejected: 1-12.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: \_\_\_\_\_.

8. ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is a) ☐ approved or b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
 9. ☐ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_.  
 10. ☒ Other: see Attachment to Advisory Action

*David W. Wu*  
 DAVID W. WU  
 SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
 TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700

*Attachment to Advisory Action*

The amendment filed on December 23, 2002 in reply to the final rejection has been considered. Although the amended material is supported by the specification, it was not part of the claims subjected to earlier prosecution. The proposed amendment raises new issues that would require further consideration and/or search. Therefore, the amendment will not be entered. In order to have the amendment entered, the Applicant may file a CPA or RCE, whichever is applicable.

*Response to Arguments*

The Applicant's arguments have been considered fully, but they are not persuasive. The Applicants maintain that U.S. Patent No. 4,767,833 Yumoto *et al.* does not teach the concept of swelling index. The declaration resounds this point and further indicates that whereas the prior art teaches use of a wide range of gel point the present invention discloses use of a narrower range.

The declaration merely delineates differences between Yumoto *et al.* and the present invention already acknowledged in the previous office actions (see Papers No. 8 and 12). The burden of proof was laid upon the Applicants to establish an unobviousness difference between the material of the prior art and that of the present invention. No data regarding the swelling index of the prior art material has been furnished to date. Furthermore, that Yumoto *et al.* teaches use of a wider range of gel point does not rebut the fact the claimed gel point ranges of the present invention lie squarely within those set forth in the prior art.

Art Unit: 1713

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rip A. Lee whose telephone number is (703)306-0094. The examiner can be reached on Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wu, can be reached at (703)308-2450. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703)746-7064. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-0661.

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January 2, 2003